2nd March 1929]

Industries

Development of cottage industries in South Kanara.

*1606 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to give the particulars of the action proposed to be taken on the report of the Special Officer in regard to cottage industries in South Kanara?

A.—The Government have called for the remarks of the Director of Industries and the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on the report and await their remarks before taking any action.

Public Works

Tenders for the construction of the out-patients block in the General Hospital.

*1607 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) when tenders were called for for the construction of the new out-patients block in the General Hospital;

(*b*) what was the last day for the submission of the tenders;

(*c*) how many tenders were received on the last day notified in the Gazette;

(*d*) which of them was the lowest tender and for what amount;

(*e*) whether the day notified as the last day was further extended later on to facilitate the coming in of new tenderers;

(*f*) whether a tender received during such an extension was accepted;

(*g*) what the amount of this tender was;

(*h*) whether it was the lowest tender;

(*i*) whether the firm whose tender was accepted did any Government work before; and

(*j*) who the partners of this firm are and what their financial stability is?

A.—(*a*) On 19th June 1928.

(*b*) The date originally fixed was 9th July 1928. It was subsequently altered to 19th July 1928, as after the publication of the first date, it was decided to use B.R.C. reinforcement for roofs and floors and the extension of time was allowed for revised quotations.

(*c*) None were received on or before 9th July 1928. Seven tenders in all were received and all these were received on 19th July 1928.

(*d*) The tender of M.R.Ry. N. Selvaperumal Mudaliyar. The terms of the tenders are confidential.

(*e*) & (*f*) Please see answers to clauses (*b*) and (*c*) respectively.

(*g*) & (*h*) Do not arise.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) The company is registered under the Indian Companies Act as a private limited company. The Government have no other information.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" If Mr. Mudaliyar's tender was the lowest, what made the Government accept the other costlier tender ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The tenderers to whom the work has been given at present are the only people who undertook to finish the work within the shortest minimum time possible. Morever they are specialists in carrying out ferao concrete works of this nature."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask the Government whether they are aware that this company have no experience at all in construction work and that it is a European company, while on the other hand Mr. Mudaliyar is a man of considerable experience in carrying out construction work, and whether he has not been skipped over in favour of a European firm who presented their tender after the stipulated date ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I know that Mr. Mudaliyar is an Indian, but I do not know if this firm is a European firm. The company recently completed the Kuthupuzha bridge in Malabar district. They have also carried out very large works for the Madras and Southern Mahratta and the South Indian Railways at a cost of about 12 lakhs of rupees."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know whether this company has done any Government work in the City of Madras ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Kuthupuzha bridge at Malabar is a Government work."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" The answer given to clause (*d*) is " the terms of the tenders are confidential. May I know why the Government regard them as confidential ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Because they are confidential."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" I want to know the reasons as to why they are treated as confidential ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Otherwise no tenders will be forthcoming."

Public Health

Regulation of expenditure in the Tirumani Leper settlement.

1608-A *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what steps have been taken to reduce the rates paid to the management for maintaining each leper and regulate the expenditure for the best use of the lepers in the Tirumani settlement and to increase the rates paid to private leper asylums ?

A.—The Government are satisfied that the capitation grants given to the management of the Leper Settlement, Tirumani, are utilized for the best use of the lepers therein. They do not consider that any reduction in the rates can be made. Government pay to private leper asylums capitation grants at two-thirds of the actual cost of maintaining each patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 a month. There is no proposal to increase the rates.